

Involve Me and I will Understand – Dorothy Morris

HOW TECHNOLOGY IS USED IN INNOVATIVE WAYS

Jerome School District has been a leader in Idaho in the implementation of technology. This progressive technological philosophy motivates and allows classroom teachers to implement inventive strategies and activities within the classroom. In my classroom, I have inserted technology within all subjects. Following is a brief description of some of those implementations:

ESL – language acquisition: Rosetta Stone is a program that provides skills required to learn a new language. My classroom has a 40% ESL population and this program has helped all these students plus those who have limited English vocabulary that are not ESL. It emphasizes listening comprehension, reading comprehension, speaking and writing. It is designed to fit the specific needs of each student and their learning style by presenting pictures, sound and/or text in various combinations. It allows each student to work independently and proceed at their own rate. This program has also been very valuable for a couple of non-ESL students who have a language deficit in vocabulary, because it can be designed for their specific needs.

Social Studies: Making a power point presentation of yearly activities for the following year's students and parents to view during first day open house is prepared throughout the school year. Digital pictures are taken of classroom activities such as the marshmallow snowball fight, field trips, visitors, parties, field days, plays, musical presentations, and the Thanksgiving feast by the classroom teacher/students/ sixth grade partners throughout the school year. The class meets at the end of the year and chooses what activity pictures they would like to include in the power point presentation. This is then shown on the classroom computers during open house at the beginning of the next school year, so that the incoming class will be familiar with upcoming activities. Students sometimes write a commercial for the presentation. Sixth grade partners help with all facets of the presentation. *Possible extensions/improvements with additional technology would be a video presentation with the overhead video projector.*

Language Arts/Science/Social Studies: Non-fiction research projects are an important and enriching part of the first grade year. It is amazing to see first graders learn how to search for information on the internet, at the school library, and during family activities. These projects are ongoing as students express an interest in a subject and are given instruction and guidelines on how to search, compile, and present information about a subject. Some students do very limited projects, while others use a variety of technological resources and do fairly complicated units that involve their sixth grade partners and sometimes their entire family. *Possible extensions: including pictures of actual subject matter such as real insects, weather types, or plants, etc. taken with the class video/digital camera in the completed project.*

Social Studies/Language Arts: The Room 9 News becomes a student project during the last half of the year. The teacher still includes important items, such as the weekly spelling and reading word lists, but the students decide what other important items should be included in the news. Some years they eventually take over the design of the paper. *Possible extensions: digital pictures with class digital/video camera*

HOW TECHNOLOGY HAS IMPACTED STUDENT PERFORMANCE

The old adage that says: “Tell me and I will forget, Show me and I will remember, Involve me and I will understand” is what happens when technology is an integral part of a lesson. Personal involvement that has a purpose increases learning many fold. Using various methods to achieve understanding assures that children with diverse learning styles will be successful learners. Marzano and others identify nine categories of instructional strategies that will most likely lead to enhanced student achievement. Utilizing technology as a tool oftentimes can address several of these strategies simultaneously. When the students are creating a dimensional shape, researching a subject of personal interest, or writing a newspaper article they are summarizing and note taking, displaying nonlinguistic representations, and working in cooperative groups. How does technology impact these strategies? Some answers follow:

Summarizing and note taking - writing a newspaper article or a non-fiction article – *technology used includes word processor, digital camera and power point.*

Reinforcing effort and providing recognition – practice in presenting the class “Year in Review”, presenting a non-fiction piece to the class or acquiring English language skills – *technology used includes digital camera, power point software, word processor, and Rosetta Stone software.*

Cooperative Learning –Deciding what activities to include in the “Year in Review” or creating a presentation with the sixth grade partners – *technology used includes digital camera, word processor and power point software.*

These are just a few of the ways technology impacts instruction within the classroom and therefore student performance.

Now on to the question of whether the implementation of these strategies, using currently available technology, actually impacts performance in evidence based assessments. Proof is in the product and some of those products include test scores, tangible student produced artifacts and verbal feedback. In this classroom, some of those tangible products include:

1. High test scores on the Idaho Reading Indicator – winter test scores reflect 83% of students in the classroom reading at grade level.
2. At least 25% of the class will probably reach grade level goals on 50 In a Minute practice, which is writing answers to 50 “differences to 10” problems in one minute – a difficult task for first graders.
3. Feedback from parents, students, teachers and administrators – parents enjoy the class newspaper, published books, and student acquired computer skills and knowledge
4. One or two level increase for Ell students on language acquisition assessments
5. An average increase in STAR reading test scores of 15 percentile points and an increase in STAR Early Literacy scores of 77 points.

Has use of technology impacted student performance in this classroom? The answer is a resounding YES!!!

BUDGET NARRATIVE – PURCHASE PROPOSAL

The following items would be purchased to enhance technology with this grant.

One item would be an InFocus X2 overhead projector, lens cap, wireless navigator remote control including batteries, computer cable, RCA video and audio cable, power cord, user guide, quick start card and a projector system CD. This projector provides a 2000:1 contrast ratio and automatic deinterlacing. The bulb has 1500 max ANSI lumens with 3000 hours of life. It has a zoom lens with manual focus and manual zoom adjust. Computer input sources include computer (M1-DA); video (S-video 4 pin mini DIN), and audio. An extra bulb will extend the life of the projector has the latest digital processing technology (DLP) from Texas Instruments which and a pocket pointer will facilitate instruction. Also included would be the necessary parts to install the projector in the classroom ceiling including mounting supplies and shipping and handling. The district will supply labor and any additional electrical supplies plus the necessary computer(s) and software. This projector is easy to operate and is compatible with the district computer system.

The second item would be a DCR-HC32 MiniDv Handycam Camcorder to record activities and projects within the classroom. This camcorder has a 1/6" advanced HAD CCD imager with 680K effective pixels (video actual – 340K pixels and still actual – 340K pixels), 20X optical zoom lens with 800X digital zoom, professional quality Carl Zeiss Vario-Tessar lens, 2.5" touch panel swivelscreen LCD display and a digital still memory mode with memory stick duo media. Included in the package is the Handycam Station which makes connection to a PC uncomplicated. This camcorder can perform both video and still picture functions. It is user friendly for students because a button can be pressed that locks out the advanced features of the machine. The sixth grade classroom buddies would be able to operate the device. The proposal also has an ACC-FP50A Handycam Accessory Kit which includes a lithium rechargeable battery pack and a carrying case.

The last item would be a new projection screen for the classroom. The Da-Lite Model C screen has permanently lubricated steel ball bearings with nylon bushings and a heavy-duty spring assembly. Extension wall brackets would extend the screen 6" beyond the wall to avoid a whiteboard. There is no shipping and handling. The district would provide installation labor.

HOW PROPOSED PURCHASE WILL ENHANCE CLASSROOM TEACHING

One of the frustrations of a classroom teacher is equal access for students to all facets of the teaching lesson or product. Computers have helped ameliorate this problem, but they have also created a subsequent problem due to accessibility because of screen size. An overhead projector allows all students to view lessons and products presented by students or teacher. Whether it's learning how to access an Accelerated Reader Quiz, use Wiggleworks software, or present a student created presentation, projection of a large visual image on a screen in front of the room where all students can see it, is the best possible scenario. The overhead projector provides the means to accomplish this task.

The larger screen will allow all the children in the class to see the video presentation clearly and from all locations in the classroom.

The video/digital camera provides both moving and still images to utilize in a variety of presentation. A poster, written document, or Power Point presentation is enhanced by a picture. The "Year in Review" would be improved by moving images of the children telling about various projects and activities. The children would also have a tangible lasting memory of their first grade year with the video or hard copy scrapbook. The camera would also be a learning tool for the sixth grade partners that come every Friday to help in the classroom. They can operate the classroom camera, just as they operate the teacher owned digital still camera. Video or digital presentations could also be placed on the class webpage.

There are many additional projects that could be developed with the addition of a video/digital camera. Taking the camera on the annual first grade "Walk Around Town" would be an amazing video with lots of possibilities in all subjects, but especially social studies. "How to" videos of the children telling the important parts of figuring out a word while reading or maybe "How to Do Near Doubles" or the "Original Doubles Rap by Room 9" would surely involve many parts of Marzano's nine important strategies.

Writing class stories or class thank you letters or searching the internet for a particular topic of interest for the whole class would be so much more effective if everyone could see the same thing at the same time. There are times when a white board or easel or paper and pencil are appropriate learning tools, but the addition of more media tools enhances the teaching/learning process.

**Qwest Foundation for Education Grant Expenditure Plan
(Standard IFARMS Budget Format)**

FIRST GRADE

JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY – JEROME, IDAHO

Activity	100	200	300	400	500	TOTAL
	Salaries	Benefits	Contractual Agreements	Materials and Supplies	Capital Objects	
Overhead projector and mounting					\$988.37	\$988.37
InFocus X2 projector				\$289.00		289.00
Extra Bulb					98.00	98.00
Pocket Pointer				25.00		25.00
S/H Projector,Bulb,Pointer					173.47	173.47
Mounting Bracket					87.00	87.00
Ceiling Plate				25.00		25.00
S/H Bracket, Plate					50.00	50.00
VGA 50' Cable					50.00	50.00
VGA Multipliers					8.00	8.00
Couplers for Cables-4 each					19.99	19.99
Audio RCA 50' Cable						
S/H Cables, Multiplier				15.00		15.00
Electrical Supplies	In kind (\$100)			District		
Installation labor				furnished(\$75)		
Computer				(In kind) Value		
				\$1000.00		
TOTAL				\$354.00	\$1474.83	\$1828.83

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Activity	100	200	300	400	500	TOTAL
	Salaries	Benefits	Contractual Agreements	Materials and Supplies	Capital Objects	
DCR-JC32 MiniDV Handycam Camcorder					\$499.99	\$499.99
ACC-FP50A Handycam Accessory Kit					79.99	79.99
InfoLithium P Series Battery Charger					59.99	59.99
Shipping and Handling				\$20.00		20.00
Da-Lite Model C Matte White – Medium to Large projection screen – 70"x70"					275.00	275.00
Da-Lite Wall Brackets – No. 6 – extends 6" from wall.					20.00	20.00
Installation labor	In kind					
TOTAL				\$20.00	\$934.97	\$954.97